

I am writing to urge to you to stop phone companies from imposing misleading charges on my monthly phone bill so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations, including CU. This petition, CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue. This bill could forever reduce and possibly remove the social costs of additional and misleading billing. Many consumers feel as I do -- annoyed with a long list of new charges and frustrated with trying to compare prices when shopping for telecommunications service. Phone bills should be truthful, easy to read and easy to understand. And some are cognizant of this need. However, many long distance and wireless bills are filled with surcharges with misleading names that imply the line items are mandated by law, when! they are not. Is this not an instance of false-advertising whereby we end up paying more for the service we thought we subscribed to at the advertised rate, unknowingly? (i.e. 450 cellular minutes a month for \$39.95 ends up costing \$48.73 with additional fees). I feel this is a form of consumer fraud. Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. Why has the FCC given in to these forms of consumer gouging? These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices. The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate carrier practices related to line item charges on bills for wireline and wireless phone service; to declare certain practices in violation on the Commission's "Truth in Billing" Order and to prohibit!

it carriers from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority. Please consider these recommendations as a means for protecting my rights as a consumer and a citizen of this great country. Please help reduce this poor-man's burden.